

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 050836Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9305
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12130

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: VM, KS, XF, JA
SUBJECT: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT ISSUES

REF: A. TOKYO 11758 (NOTAL); B. TOKYO 5939 (NOTAL)
C. TOKYO 11595 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DURING JULY 5 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH
AMBASSADOR, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA DISCUSSED VISIT
NOW UNDERWAY OF VIETNAMESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, ISSUES
IN JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS, AND PROSPECTS FOR FUKUDA TRIP TO
MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY

2. VIETNAM: ARITA NOTED PHAN HIEN VISIT WAS IN RESPONSE
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TO INVITATION EXTENDED DURING HIS 1976 VISIT TO HANOI, AND
THAT HIEN WAS HERE AS GUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER, NOT OF
PRIME MINISTER. VIETNAMESE HAD ATTEMPTED TO RAISE LEVEL
OF VISIT BY ARMING HIEN WITH MESSAGE FROM PHAM VAN DONG
AND NAMING HIM PRIME MINISTERIAL ENVOY, AND HIEN PARTY
HAD INDICATED UPON ARRIVAL THAT HIEN EXPECTED SUBSTANTIVE
TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA. JAPANESE SIDE HAD

DISABUSED THEM OF THAT NOTION; HIEN WILL SEE FUKUDA, BUT TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE AT FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN NAKAE WAS SCHEDULED TO HOST DINNER; VIETNAMESE SIDE HAD BEEN UNSURE WHETHER TO ACCEPT BUT WAS TOLD THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF HIGHER-RANKING HOST.

3. AS FOR SUBSTANCE OF VISIT, ARITA SAID THAT JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DISCUSSED, I.E., IMPLEMENTATION OF AID LEVELS AGREED UPON LAST APRIL (REF B). ARITA SAID GOJ WAS DISTURBED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF VIETNAMESE ACCESSION TO CEMA, AND HOPED HIEN WOULD SHED SOME LIGHT ON IMPLICATIONS OF THIS FOR JAPANESE-SRV ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID RUMORS THAT SOVIETS WERE ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES IN CAM RANH BAY, AND GENERAL QUESTION OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM, WAS ANOTHER DISTURBING AREA JAPANESE WISHED TO PROBE WITH HIEN.

4. KOREA: ARITA SAID JAPAN-KOREA MINISTERIALS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN LATE AUGUST IF ALL WENT WELL. ONE POSSIBLE COMPLICATION WAS FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S INSISTENCE THAT QUESTION OF TAKESHIMA/DOKTO BE TAKEN UP. GOJ POSITION WAS THAT, WHILE QUESTION PERHAPS COULD NOT BE RESOLVED IN CONTEXT OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE RATHER THAN TO PRETEND IT DID NOT EXIST. ARITA THOUGHT THAT IF ROK COULD NOT AGREE TO INCLUDE

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TAKESHIMA/DOKTO ON MINISTERIAL AGENDA, SONODA WOULD NOT ATTEND.

5. FUKUDA TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST: ARITA SAID THAT BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY OF DIET DISSOLUTION, PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULE BEYOND EARLY SEPTEMBER WAS BEING HELD OPEN. FINAL EVENT NOW ON AGENDA WAS TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST: IRAN, SEPTEMBER 6-8; EGYPT, SEPTEMBER 8-10; SAUDI ARABIA, SEPTEMBER 10-12. CAIRO AND TEHERAN HAD RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO PROPOSED DATES; SAUDIS, HOWEVER, ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT TO OCTOBER, CITING POST-RAMADAN COMPLICATIONS. OCTOBER WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR FUKUDA BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCHEDULE, WHICH COULD MEAN VISIT TO IRAN AND EGYPT ALONE. MANSFIELD

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